

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jay S. Franklin on 11/16/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 14:

- Line 32, "second counter shafts (12, 14)" has been amended as --second counter shafts (12, 14); and, an exterior surface of the first and the second counter shafts at a first axial end is radially supported on a housing by a first bearing and the exterior surface of the first and the second counter shafts at second axial end is radially supported by a second bearing--.

Claim 20:

- Line 9, "shafts (12, 14) each having a radially uninterrupted cross section along a plane that is" has been amended as -- shafts (12, 14) each having a radially uninterrupted cross section extending from the axis of rotation to an outer surface of the counter shaft along a plane that is--.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 14-26 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fails to disclose or render obvious a range change transmission having the following combination: an input shaft, two counter shafts, a loose gear wheel, a drive output shaft, first and second pressure combs, and particularly an exterior surface of the first and the second counter shafts at a first axial end is radially supported on a housing by a first bearing and the exterior surface of the first and the second counter shafts at second axial end is radially supported by a second bearing and each counter shaft having a radially uninterrupted cross section extending from the axis of rotation to an outer surface of the counter shaft.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DEREK D. KNIGHT whose telephone number is (571)272-7951. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Friday, 8am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David D. Le can be reached on (571) 272-7092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/D. D. K./
Examiner, Art Unit 3655

/David D. Le/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3655
11/23/2009